Listing of Claims:

1. - 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 9 wherein said separator having a thickness less than 3 mils.

5. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 9 wherein said membrane being one layer of a multilayered separator.

6. - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 9 wherein said oligomer being a polyethylene wax having a molecular weight less than 6000.

9. (Currently Amended) A battery separator for a lithium rechargeable battery comprising a microporous polyolefinic membrane having a shutdown temperature of less than about ~~125~~ 130°C, a porosity in a range of 30 - 80%, an average pore size in a range of 0.02 - 2.0 microns, and being made from a blend of a medium molecular weight high density polyethylene polymer and a polyethylene wax, and said wax comprising at least 20% by weight of said blend and less than or equal to 50% by weight of said blend.

10. (Previously Presented) A battery comprising:

an anode;

a cathode;

a separator according to Claim 9, said separator being disposed between said anode and said cathode; and

an electrolyte in ionic communication with said anode and said cathode via said separator.

11. (Original) The battery according to Claim 10 being a lithium battery.

12. (Previously Presented) The battery separator according to Claim 9 wherein a breadth of a temperature response for said shutdown being 4-5°C.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The battery separator according to Claim 9 wherein said shutdown temperature being less than about 123°C.

15. (Previously Presented) The battery separator according to Claim 9 wherein said shutdown temperature being less than about 120°C.